

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 05802 071953Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06
OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 AGRE-00
CEQ-01 CG-00 DLOS-09 DOTE-00 EPA-01 FMC-01
JUSE-00 NSF-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /138 W
-----080750Z 107403 /15

R 071520Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3861
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
SECDEF
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMSIXTHFLT
EUCOM
USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 5802

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, ENRG, TS, YL, IT
SUBJECT: TUNISIAN-LIBYAN DISPUTE

REF: (A) ROME 5539 (B) TUNIS 2271 (C) TUNIS 2293 (NOTAL)
(D) STATE 72492

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1. DURING BRIEF CORRIDOR MEETING APRIL 6 WITH EMBOFF,
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REP GALLI STATED THAT ENI/SAIPEM
DRILLING RIG SCARABEO IV HAD NOT RPT NOT CHANGED ITS POSITION
AS REPORTED REFTEL (B).

2. GALLI ALSO DESCRIBED BRIEF ROME AIRPORT ENCOUNTER (REF C)
BETWEEN TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTY AND GOI DELEGATION

LED BY MFA UNDERSECRETARY RADI AS "UNPRODUCTIVE". GOT, ACCORDING TO GALLI, HAD ONLY "APPEARED" TO BE MORE UNDERSTANDING OF ITALIAN SITUATION; IN REALITY, GOT AS INTRANSIGENT AS LARG.

3. ON MERITS OF DISPUTE, GALLI INDICATED THAT MFA EXPERTS HAD NOT RPT NOT STUDIED PROBLEMS IN DETAIL ALTHOUGH PANEL OF LEGAL CONSULTANTS (BUT NOT GEOGRAPHERS) HAD ARRIVED AT CONCLUSION THAT LIBYAN ARGUMENTS HAD SOME MERIT. GALLI DESCRIBED THEIR INVESTIGATION (BUT NOT NECESSARILY FINDINGS) AS OVERLY PERFUNCTORY AND SIAD THAT ENI EXPERTS HAD CONFIDENTALLY ADVISE MFA THAT GOT HAD BY FAR THE STRONGER CASE. LARG HAS OFFERED, ACCORDING TO GALLI, TO SEND TEAM OF GEOGRAPHERS TO ROME TO PRESENT LARG ARGUMENTS; HOWEVER, TEAM HAS NEVER ARRIVED AND GALLI DOUBTED THAT IT WOULD. EMBOFF MENTIONED RESULTS OF NORTH CUTT ELY OPINION (REF D) INDICATING FOUR OUT OF FIVE INTERPRETATIONS OF RELEVANT LAWS SUPPORT TUNISIAN POSITION.

4. COMMENT: IN VIEW ENI AND MFA ASSERTIONS THAT SCARABEO IV HAS NOT RPT NOT SHIFTED ITS POSTION, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION OF INFORMATION CONTAINED REFTTEL (B). IF SCARABEO IV HAS ACTUALLY SHIFTED ITS POSTION AT REQUEST OF LARG, IT APPEARS TO US THAT ITALY, GOI AND ENI, ARE OFF THE HOOK FOR THE PRESENT. GIVEN GOI DESIRE TO AVOID CHOICE BETWEEN TUNISIA AND LIBYA, ONCE IMMEDIATE POINT OF FRICTION DIRECTLY INVOLVING ITALY REMOVED, WE BELIEVE THAT GOI WILL BE EXTREMELY UNLIKELY TO TAKE LEAD IN RESOLVING UNDERLYING BOUNDARY PROBLEM. GARDNER
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Message Attributes

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Concepts: DISPUTES, OFFSHORE DRILLING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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From: ROME
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770477/aaaacphv.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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